

Blessings of Sha'ban

Sunnah-Inspiring speech of
weekly Sunnah-Inspiring Ijtima

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Blessings of Sha'ban

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى آلِكَ وَأَصْحَابِكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ
وَعَلَى آلِكَ وَأَصْحَابِكَ يَا نُورَ اللَّهِ

نَوَيْتُ سُنَّتَ الْإِعْتِكَافِ

Translation: I have made the intention of Sunnah I'tikaaf.

Whenever you enter a Masjid, make the intention of 'I'tikaaf' upon remembering it because as long as you stay in the Masjid you will keep obtaining the reward of Nafli (supererogatory) I'tikaafs, and eating, drinking and sleeping will also become permissible for you in the Masjid.

Excellence of reciting Salat-'Alan-Nabi ﷺ

The most Revered and Renowned Prophet ﷺ has stated: 'Any person who recites Salat (Durood) upon me 3 times in the day and 3 times in the night due to love and devotion to me, it is in the responsibility of the Mercy of Allah عزوجل to forgive the sins he committed during that day and night.

(Al-Mu'jam-ul-Kabeer, vol. 18, pp. 326, Hadees 927)

آس بے نہ کوئی پاس ایک تمہاری ہے آس بس ہے یہی آسرا تم پہ کروڑوں درود

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! Before listening to the Bayān, let's make good intentions for attaining rewards. The Beloved Prophet ﷺ has said, 'يَتَى الْمُؤْمِنُ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِهِ' *The intention of a believer is better than his action.* (Al-Mu'jam-ul-Kabeer, vol. 6, pp. 185, Hadees 5942)

Two Madani pearls

1. Without a good intention, no reward is granted for a good deed.
2. The more righteous intentions one makes the greater reward he will attain.

Intentions of listening to the Bayān

1. Lowering my eyes, I will listen to the Bayān attentively.
2. Instead of resting against a wall etc., I will sit in Attahiyyaat position as far as possible with the intention of showing respect for religious knowledge.
3. I will make room for others by folding my hands and limbs and by moving slightly.
4. If someone pushes me, I will remain patient and avoid staring, snapping, and arguing with them.
5. When I hear صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ, اُذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ, تُؤْتُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ, etc., I will reply loudly with the intention of gaining reward and encouraging others to also recite.
6. After the Bayān, I will approach other people by making Salām, shaking hands, and for making individual efforts upon them.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Intentions of delivering a Bayān

1. I also make the intention that I would deliver this speech (Bayān) in order to seek the pleasure of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ and for reaping the rewards.

2. I will deliver my speech (Bayān) by reading from a book of an authentic Sunni scholar.

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ

Translation from Kanz-ul-Īmān: ‘Call towards the path of your Lord with sound planning and good advice.’ (Part 14, Surah An-Nahl, verse 125)

بَلِّغُوا عَنِّي وَلَوْ آيَةً

‘Convey from me even if it is a single verse.’ (Sahih Bukhari, Hadees 4361)

3. I would follow these abovementioned commandments by calling people towards righteousness and will forbid them from committing evil deeds.
4. Whilst reciting poetry or speaking Arabic, English, or pronouncing difficult words, I will focus my attention on the sincerity of my heart. That is to say, I will avoid delivering my speech with the intention to impress the audience with my knowledge.
5. I will encourage the people to travel with Madani Qafilahs, to practice upon the Madani In'aamaat and to join the 'Ilaaqa'i Daura for Nayki ki Da'wat' (area visit for calling towards righteousness).
6. I will avoid laughing and prevent others from laughing as well.
7. In order to develop the habit of protecting my eyes from sins I will, as far as possible, lower my gaze.

صَلَّى اللّٰهُ تَعَالٰى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ

Dear Islamic brothers! This blessed month is a favourite month of our Beloved Prophet ﷺ and is a month of reciting Salat-‘Alan-Nabi. It is stated in *Ghunya-tut-Talibeen* that in the blessed month of Sha’ban, Durood is recited upon the Prophet of creation, the Peace of our heart and mind, the most Generous and Kind ﷺ abundantly and this is a month of sending Durood upon the Beloved Rasool ﷺ.

(*Ghunya-tut-Talibeen*, vol. 1, pp. 342)

Therefore, we should abundantly recite Salat-‘Alan-Nabi in this blessed month. ﷺ in the Madani environment of Dawat-e-Islami, a global non-political movement of preaching Quran and Sunnah, people are properly motivated and persuaded to recite Salat and Salam; for this reason, the beloved son of Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, Haji Abu Hilaal Muhammad Bilal Raza Attari Al-Madani رَحِمَهُمُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى delivered a Bayan on the virtues and excellences of Salat-o-Salam in the Silsilah (series) called ‘*Faizan-e-Durood-o-Salam*’ which was broadcasted on Madani Channel’. ﷺ Maktaba-tul-Madinah has published this series in book form by the name of ‘*Guldasta-e-Durood-o-Salam*’ containing 660 pages. This book is a beautiful collection of virtues & excellences of Salat-‘Alan-Nabi in the light of the blessed Ahadees as well as blessed sayings of the pious predecessors رَحِمَهُمُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى, faith-refreshing parables & narrations, warnings of not reciting Salat-‘Alan-Nabi, including a lot of information on other topics as well. Let’s listen to a parable to develop the habit of reciting Salat-‘Alan-Nabi especially in the blessed month of Sha’ban.

Glad tiding of intercession

There was a person who would not recite Salat upon the Beloved Rasool ﷺ. One night, he was privileged to see the Noblest Prophet ﷺ in his dream; the Noblest Prophet ﷺ did not pay attention to him. He humbly said: O Prophet of Allah (ﷺ)! Are you displeased with me? No, the Prophet of Rahmah ﷺ replied. He humbly asked: Then why do you not give me any attention? The Beloved and Blessed Prophet ﷺ replied: Because I do not recognise you. He humbly said: How is it possible that you do not recognise me; I am one of your Ummatis, and the scholars say that you know your Ummati better than

a father knows his son. The Holy Prophet ﷺ replied: They have said right; but you do not remember me through Durood and I remember the people of my Ummah due to their recitation of Durood; the more they recite Durood upon me, the more I know them.

Upon awakening, he made it necessary upon himself to habitually recite Salat-'Alan-Nabi (Durood) upon the Noble Prophet ﷺ everyday. After sometime, he was again privileged to see the Beloved and Blessed Rasool ﷺ in his dream; the Noblest Prophet ﷺ has stated: I recognise you now and I will intercede for you.

(Mukashafa-tul-Quloob, pp.79)

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! We have just heard that the Revered and Renowned Prophet ﷺ not only became pleased with a reciter of Durood but also appeared in his dream. Therefore, we too should continue reciting Durood Shareef in large amounts while standing, walking or sitting.

Sayyiduna Ibn-e-'Abbas رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُمَا said, the Beloved and Blessed Prophet ﷺ has stated, 'The true believer who performs two Rak'aat on the night before Jumu'ah, and in each Rak'at recites Surah Al-Ikhlās 25 times after Surah Al-Fatihah, and after completing the Salah, recite 1000 times, 'صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْأُمِّيِّ', he will see me in his dream before the next Friday, and whoever sees me, then Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ will forgive his sins.'

(Al-Qaul-ul-Badi', pp. 383)

Sayyiduna Shaykh 'Abdul Haq Muhaddis Dihlvi عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمَى has reported, 'Whoever recites Salat-'Alan-Nabi 1000 times on the day of Jumu'ah, he will be privileged to see the Noblest Prophet ﷺ in his dream or he will see his place & status in Jannah, if this is unfulfilled, then he should recite on the next Friday also, إِنَّ هَذَا اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ he will be privileged to see the Beloved Prophet ﷺ in his dream within five Fridays.'

(Taariikh-e-Madinah, pp. 343)

Dear Islamic brothers! The Mi'raaj of our Noble Prophet ﷺ is to look at the blessed sight of Allah عزوجل and the Mi'raaj of true lovers and followers of the Beloved Rasool is to look at the blessed sight of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ. Who will be that unfortunate person having no blessed desire to see the Beloved Prophet ﷺ. Undoubtedly, each lover of the Beloved Rasool ﷺ would have this great desire.

کچھ ایسا کردے مرے کردگار آنکھوں میں
بمیشہ نقش ربے رُوئے یار آنکھوں میں
اُنہیں نہ دیکھا تو کس کام کی ہیں یہ آنکھیں
کہ دیکھنے کی ہے ساری بہار آنکھوں میں

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Sayyiduna Shaykh Abul Mawahib Shaazli عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْقَوِي has stated, 'The one who desires to see the Beloved Prophet ﷺ, he should make Zikr (remembrance) of the Beloved Rasool ﷺ abundantly and have love and dedication to the blessed saints رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى and descendants of Rasoolullah ﷺ, otherwise he will remain deprived of this privilege because these blessed personalities رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى are the leaders of all people, their displeasure is, in fact, the displeasure of Allah عزوجل and His Beloved Rasool ﷺ.' (Afzal-us-Salawaat, pp. 127)

Dear Islamic brothers! If we also want to seek the pleasure of Allah عزوجل and His Beloved Rasool ﷺ and if we are keen to see the blessed sight of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ then we should recite Salat-'Alan-Nabi day and night like a Wazeefah (incantation) and if we are committed and absorb ourselves in this then إِنَّ شَاءَ اللَّهُ عزوجل we will also be privileged to see the Beloved Rasool ﷺ.

In his Madani bouquet (book) called 'Al-Wazeefa-tul-Kareemah' (on Du'as and Wazaaf), A'la Hadrat Imam-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, Maulana Shah Imam Ahmad Raza Khan عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَن has written some blessed words of Salat-'Alan-Nabi to receive the privilege of seeing the Greatest and Holiest Prophet ﷺ, thereafter he رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى states: Recite Salat-'Alan-Nabi purely for respect and

reverence of the Noblest Prophet ﷺ, do not have this intention to see the Noble Prophet ﷺ, then he will see his limitless and endless mercy. Stand facing Madinah Shareef humbly, the state of your heart must be towards the Prophet of Rahmah ﷺ, continue reciting, whilst your hands are folded and imagination that you are present in the blessed & sacred mausoleum (Rawdah Mubarak) of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ and believe that the Noblest Prophet ﷺ is watching you, listening to you and aware of the condition of your heart.

(Al-Wazeefa-tul-Kareemah, pp. 28)

Dear Islamic brothers! If we also develop the habit of reciting Salat-'Alan-Nabi with sincerity and consistency, practicing upon the method shown by A'la Hadrat ﷺ then *إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ* not only will we be privileged to see the Holy Prophet ﷺ but we shall also become deserving of infinite blessings and mercy of Allah *عَزَّوَجَلَّ*. Let's listen to more excellences of Salat-'Alan-Nabi to motivate us further.

Sayyiduna Shaykh 'Abdul Haq Muhaddis Dihlvi *عليه رحمة الله القوي* has stated: When a true believer recites Salat-'Alan-Nabi one time, Allah *عَزَّوَجَلَّ* blesses him ten times, forgives ten of his sins and raises his status by ten times and bestows him with ten virtues and the reward of freeing 10 slaves. *(Attargheeb Wattarheeb, vol. 2, pp. 322, Hadees 2574)* And blesses him with the reward of participating in 20 Ghazawaat [battles]. *(Al-Firdaus-ul-Akhbar, vol. 1, pp. 340, Hadees 2484)*

Through Salat-'Alan-Nabi, Du'as are answered. *(Al-Firdaus-ul-Akhbar, vol. 2, pp. 22, Hadees 3554)* Reciting it makes the intercession of the Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of the Ummah ﷺ Waajib [obligatory]. *(Al-Mu'jam-ul-Awsat, vol. 2, pp. 279 Hadees 3285)* A reciter of Salat-'Alan-Nabi will be close to the Holy Prophet ﷺ by the door of Jannah. The recitation of Salat-'Alan-Nabi is sufficient for removing all worries and for the fulfilment of all needs. *(Ad-Durr-ul-Mansoor, vol. 2, pp. 654)* Salat-'Alan-Nabi is an atonement of sins. *(Jila-ul-Afhaam, pp. 234)* Salat-'Alan-Nabi is more superior to Sadaqah (charity). *(Jazb-ul-Quloob, pp. 229)*

Sayyiduna Shaykh ‘Abdul Haq Muhaddis Dihlvi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ الْقَوِيُّ has further stated: Salat-‘Alan-Nabi removes difficulties, is a cure for illness, removes fear, brings salvation from cruelty, gives dominance over enemies, brings about the pleasure of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ, brings devotion to Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ, angels talk about that person; it completes one’s deeds; it purifies the heart; life and possessions; the reciter becomes prosperous; he attains its blessings and there will be blessings in his children which will continue for four generations. *(Jazb-ul-Quloob, pp. 229)*

Dear Islamic brothers! Abundant recitation of the blessed Salat-‘Alan-Nabi is extremely important for achieving closeness to the Noblest Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, as well as for acquiring blessings and deep insight in Divine matters, therefore, we should recite Salat upon the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ while sitting, standing and walking etc., and continue reciting in abundance, especially in the blessed month of Sha’ban; we should also fast during the day and stand awake at night in prayers, because this is a sacred month. The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of Ummah صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: *‘شَعْبَانُ شَهْرِي وَ رَمَضَانُ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ* ‘i.e., Sha’ban is my month and Ramadan is the month of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ.’ *(Al-Jāmi’-us-Sagheer, pp. 301, Hadees 4889)*

Sayyidatuna ‘Āishah Siddiqah رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا has said, ‘Sha’ban was the favourite month of the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ. He صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would observe fasts during this month and join it with Ramadan.’

(Sunan Abī Dāwūd, vol. 2, pp. 476, Hadees 2431)

The Beloved Rasool ﷺ would regularly fast in Sha’ban

It is stated in another blessed Hadees: The Beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would not observe fasts so abundantly in any other month as he صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would do in the blessed month of Sha’ban, rather, he صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ used to fast for the entire month, and would say, ‘Act according to your capability as Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ does not stop His blessings until you become exhausted.’

(Sahih Bukhari, vol. 1, pp. 648, Hadees 1970)

The commentator of *Sahih Bukhari*, 'Allamah Mufti Shareef-ul-Haq Amjadi عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْقَوِي has elaborated on this Hadees as follows: It means that he صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ used to observe fasts in most of the days of Sha'ban and this was referred to as the whole (i.e. fasting for the whole month). It is usually said, 'Such and such a person worshipped the whole night'; although he would have spent some time in eating and meeting his needs. In such cases, 'mostly' refers to the 'whole'.

He رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ further stated: From this Hadees we have learnt that one bearing the capability to do so, should fast abundantly. However, the one who is weak should not fast as it may negatively affect his ability to fast in the month of Ramadan. The same point has been confirmed in those Ahadees in which it was stated, 'Do not observe fast after the first half of Sha'ban.' (*Sunan-ut-Tirmizi, Hadees 738; Nuzha-tul-Qāri, vol. 3, pp. 377-380*)

Dear Islamic brothers! Have you seen that Sha'ban was the most favourite month of the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, although fasts are not obligatory in this month, the Beloved and Blessed Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ used to abundantly fast in this month. Now ponder on this fact, being Sayyid-ul-Ma'sumeen (sinless and incapable of sinning), the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would fast, now how important is it for the sinful people like us to fast. We should also develop this habit of observing optional fasts in addition to the Ramadan fasts. It is a source of great Deeni advantages along with the abundance of worldly benefits. The protection of Imaan (faith), prevention from sins, salvation from Hell and the achievement of Jannah are part of the Deeni advantages that one may achieve, and so far as the worldly benefits are concerned, saving time, saving expenses, giving the stomach a rest and the protection from so many other diseases as well as achieving the essence of all benefits is that Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ is Pleased. We should also attain countless Deeni and worldly benefits, bearing the hardship of a few days only.

The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of the Ummah صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated, 'Whoever observes a Nafl [optional] fast expecting reward, Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ will keep him 40 years distance away from Hell.'

(*Kanz-ul-'Ummāl, pp. 255, vol. 8, Hadees 24148*)

The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of the Ummah ﷺ has stated: If someone keeps a Nafil [optional] fast and (even if he) is given the whole earth full of gold (as a reward) his reward will still remain incomplete, he will be given his reward on the Day of Judgement only.

(Musnad Abī Ya'la, pp. 353, vol. 5, Hadees 6104)

Best deed

Sayyiduna Abu Umamah رضى الله تعالى عنه has stated that he asked, 'O Prophet ﷺ! Tell me any act (that will benefit me).' He ﷺ replied, 'Fast, because no other deed is like it.' He رضى الله تعالى عنه asked again, 'Tell me any (another) act.' He ﷺ replied, 'Keep fasts, because no other deed is like it.' He رضى الله تعالى عنه asked once again, 'Tell me any (other) act.' He ﷺ replied, 'Keep fasts, because no other deed is like it.'

(Sunan Nasāi, pp. 166, vol. 4)

Dear Islamic brothers! Have you seen those who observe optional fasts are rewarded with such incredible favours that Allah عزوجل keeps them away from Hell, the distance of 40 years and even gold equal to the earth if it were to be given to him, it cannot exceed his reward which will be given to him on the Day of Judgement. Therefore, we should also observe optional fasts such as the fasts of Rajab & Sha'ban as well as on Mondays & Thursdays, along with the obligatory fasts.

Shaykh-e-Tareeqat, Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, 'Allamah Maulana Abu Bilal Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri Razawi Ziyae دامت برکاتہم العالیہ loves optional fasts; that's the reason he دامت برکاتہم العالیہ continues to observe fasts the entire year except on the prohibited days. He also strongly motivates and persuades others to observe fasts on each Monday along with observing fasts in Rajab & Sha'ban, furthermore, by virtue of his sincere persuasion and motivation, many Islamic brothers and Islamic sisters are privileged to fast in the entire month of Rajab and Sha'ban, if not the whole of these blessed months then most of their days are spent fasting. Fasting on Mondays is also part of the Madani In'aamaat program (booklet) as the Madani In'aam no. 58 states: 'Did you fast on Monday (or on any other

day if missed it) in this week? Did you eat bread made from barley at least once this week?’

Dear Islamic brothers! Along with fasting in the blessed month of Sha'ban, we should also perform worship in abundance. It was the routine of the blessed Sahaabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُمْ that they would devote themselves to praying & worshipping as soon as this blessed month would arrive.

Sayyiduna Anas Bin Mālik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ has stated, ‘When the blessed companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُمْ saw the crescent of Sha'ban, they would engage themselves in reciting the Holy Quran and paying Zakāh so that the weak and the poor may also make preparations for observing fasts of the month of Ramadan. The governors would summon the prisoners to enforce sentence upon the deserving ones (sentenced by Shari'ah) and set the rest free. Businessmen would pay their debts and collect their dues. (In this way, they would become free for worship before the appearance of the moon of Ramadan), and as soon as the moon of Ramadan appeared, they would perform Ghusl and (some) would take part in I'tikāf for the whole month.’ *(Ghunya-tut-Talibeen, vol. 1, pp. 246)*

Worshipping in the night of Shab-e-Bara`at

The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of the Ummah, the Owner of Jannah صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would abundantly worship in the night of Shab-e-Bara`at. Sayyidah `Āishah Siddiqah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا has narrated: Once on the 15th night of Sha'ban, the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said to me, ‘Let me worship on this night’. I humbly said, ‘Yes, may my parents be sacrificed upon you.’ Then the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ stood in prayer, he then prostrated for so long that I presumed the that blessed soul of the Beloved and Blessed Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ had been seized. I felt by touched the blessed feet of the Noblest Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and was overjoyed to feel movement. *(Shu'ab-ul-Imaan, vol. 3, pp. 384, Hadees 3837)*

Dear Islamic brothers! Have you seen that the Noble Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ is a beloved of Allah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ and despite being a Sayyid-ul-Ma'sumeen, he صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ used to excessively worship. We should also worship as much as we can and avoid setting off fireworks and other such acts which cause the displeasure of Allah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ.

It is reported that the one who offers 100 Rak'at on this blessed night, Allah ﷻ will send 100 angels to him of whom 30 angels bring him the glad tiding of Jannah. Another 30 will save him from the fire of Hell, 30 will keep all calamities of the world away from him and the last 10 will protect him from the deception of satan.

(Haashiya-tus-Saawi, vol. 5, pp. 1908, Surah Ad-Dukhan Taht-al-Ayah 4)

Ameer-ul-Mu'mineen Sayyiduna Ali'-ul-Murtada رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ has said: On the 15th night of Sha'ban, I saw the Noble Prophet ﷺ standing for prayer, he ﷺ offered 14 Rak'at. Having completed the Salah, the Beloved Prophet ﷺ recited Surah Al-Fatihah 14 times, Surah Al-Ikhlās 14 times, Surah Al-Falaq 14 times, Surah An-Naas 14 times, Aayat-ul-Kursi one time and then he recited this blessed verse:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ

When the Noble Prophet ﷺ completed his recitation, I asked about this action. The Greatest and Holiest Prophet ﷺ has stated, 'The one who does this, he will attain the reward equal to 20 accepted Hajj [pilgrimage] and accepted fasts of 20 years and if he wakes up in the morning in the state of fasting, then he will attain the reward of fasts of the past one year and fasts of the year to come.' *(Shu'ab-ul-Imaan, vol. 3, pp. 386)*

Sayyiduna Hasan Basri رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ has stated: 30 blessed companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ of the Holy Prophet ﷺ have told me that if anyone offers 100 Ra'kaat in cycles of two Rak'at; and in each Rak'at after Surah Al-Fatihah he recites Surah Al-Ikhlās 11 times, Allah ﷻ will shower 70 times Divine mercy upon that person, each mercy will fulfil 70 of his needs and the minimum he would receive is forgiveness.

(Ruh-ul-Bayan, vol. 8, pp. 403, Surah Ad-Dukhan, Taht-al-Ayah 3)

It is mentioned in a blessed Hadees that whoever stays awake in 5 nights and spends them in worshipping, Jannah becomes obligatory for him, the 15th night of Sha'ban is also one of these nights.

(Ruh-ul-Bayan, vol. 8, pp. 403, Surah Ad-Dukhan, Taht-al-Ayah 3)

Dear Islamic brothers! Have you seen the great excellence and virtues of worshipping in this blessed night? We should develop the habit of standing awake in prayers in these blessed nights along with offering the obligatory prayers, one should also adopt the habit of performing optional acts of worship according to his ability. Staying awake in prayers at night and observing fasts in the day are part of the routine of our pious Predecessors رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى.

It is reported that for 40 years Sayyiduna Imam-e-A'zam Abu Hanifah and Ghaus-e-A'zam رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى performed Salat-ul-Fajr with the Wudu of Salat-ul-'Isha. And Sayyiduna Ghaus-e-A'zam عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللهِ الْكَرِيم devoted 25 years in worshipping & devotion in the jungle of Iraq. *(Bahjat-ul-Asraar, pp. 118)*

The blessed saints رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى used to fast for years. They offered 300, 500, and even 1000 optional Salahs daily. They would complete the entire Quran daily; they would recite thousands of blessed Salat-'Alan-Nabi. In short, these blessed personalities رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى used to carry out tremendous & virtuous deeds considering this world as a farm for the Hereafter. If we want to enjoy the excellent blessings of Jannah, then we must do virtuous deeds in abundance, and also refrain from sins by reflecting on the Hereafter.

گناہوں سے ہر دم بچا یا الہی	بنادے مجھے نیک نیکوں کا صدقہ
کرم ہو خُدا یا الہی	عبادت میں گزرے مری زندگانی
ہو ایمان پر خاتمہ یا الہی	مُسلمان بے عطار تیری عطا سے

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّی اللہُ تَعَالٰی عَلٰی مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! May the Blessings of Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ be showered upon His bondsmen in this blessed night. Therefore, we should obtain abundant rewards

and favours by performing as much worship as we can, but also refraining from sins and by reciting abundant Salat & Salam. The Muslims of earlier times had a Madani mindset to struggle and attain the closeness of Allah ﷻ by engaging themselves in worshipping & devotion in these sacred days; but what has happened to the Muslims of today, they do not respect these blessed days and waste their precious time on these blessed nights in futile activities instead of spending their valuable moments of these nights in the Masajid or by attending blessed congregations; though Allah ﷻ reveals a special Divine Manifestation and forgives countless of His bondsmen.

Shab-e-Bara`at, the night of salvation

Ameer-ul-Mu`mineen Sayyiduna 'Ali-ul-Murtada كَرَّمَ اللهُ تَعَالَى وَجْهَهُ الْكَرِيم has reported that the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: When the 15th night of Sha'ban arrives, stand (for worship) in the night and fast during the day. Indeed, Allah ﷻ reveals a special Divine Manifestation on the sky above the earth from the time of sunset and announces, 'Is there anyone seeking forgiveness so that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking sustenance so that I may grant him sustenance? Is there anyone afflicted so that I may relieve his affliction? Is there so and so...' He ﷻ continues to announce this until the time of Fajr.' (*Sunan Ibn Majah, pp. 160, vol. 2, Hadees 1388*)

Alas! Some ignorant Muslims persecute, torture and disturb those virtuous Muslims who are engaged in worshipping & devotion with humility and fear in the blessed court of Allah ﷻ or they trouble those who are ill or elderly or innocent children who are asleep in their houses by setting off fireworks, let alone respect and reverence for this blessed night by these ignorant Muslims. Remember! Hurting Muslims, injuring their feelings and persecuting them by using various tactics, all these are strictly prohibited, in fact it is Haraam to do so and are acts leading to Hell. Ponder over that! In this blessed night, when all the good Muslims are being forgiven and if we are left deprived of this blessing & salvation due to our wicked actions then what will be our consequences? Therefore, if we have hurt any Muslim deliberately or not or violated anyone's right or if we have a grudge & enmity against anyone, then seek forgiveness immediately before this blessed night of Shab-e-Bara`at

and make the intention not to repeat all these sins in the future because death keeps no calendar, it may defeat us in this year while we are heedless.

Remember! Fireworks are not the inventions of Muslims, these evils are the inventions of non-Muslims. Muftī Ahmad Yār Khān عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ الْمَلَكِ has stated, 'The tyrant king Namrūd invented fireworks. When Sayyiduna Ibrāheem عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was thrown into the fire, it turned into a garden of flowers, so Namrūd's people prepared mobile fireworks which they set on fire and threw towards Sayyiduna Ibrāheem عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.' (Islāmī Zindagī, pp. 63)

Sadly, the terrible tradition of fireworks is prevalent amongst Muslims. Every year, Muslims waste millions of their hard earned money on fireworks. It's often reported that so many houses have been burnt and so many people or animals etc., have tragically lost their lives as a result of fireworks. It can result in the loss of life and property; it is a complete waste of money. Above all, this act is disobedience to Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ. Muftī Ahmad Yār Khān عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ الْمَلَكِ has stated, 'Making, purchasing, selling and setting off fireworks are all Haraam acts.' (Islāmī Zindagī, pp. 63)

اے خاصہ خاصانِ رُسلِ وقتِ دعا ہے اُمتِ پہ تری آ کے عَجَبِ وقتِ پڑا ہے
فریاد ہے اے کشتی اُمت کے نگہاں بیڑا یہ تباہی کے قریب آن لگا ہے

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Shab-e-Bara`at and visiting the graves

Sayyidatuna 'Āishah Siddīqah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا has narrated, 'One night, I did not find the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, but (then) I found him in Baqī' (the blessed graveyard in Madinah Munawwarah). The Beloved and Blessed Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said to me, 'Were you afraid that Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ and His Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would not fulfil your rights?' I politely replied, 'Yā Rasūlallāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, I thought that you had probably gone to one of your other chaste wives.' The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of the Ummah صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'Without doubt, on the 15th night of Sha'ban,

Allah ﷻ reveals His special Divine manifestation on the sky of the world and forgives more people than even the number of hairs growing on the goats of the tribe Banī Kalb.' (*Jāmi' Tirmidhī, vol. 2, pp. 183, Hadees 739*)

It is Sunnah for Islamic brothers to visit the graveyard on Shab-e-Barā'at (according to the Sharī'ah, Islamic sisters are not allowed to visit the graveyard; they should donate their rewards and offer prayers at home) Islamic brothers should visit the graveyard and donate rewards (Sawaab) and seek forgiveness for their deceased which is a source of attaining their affection and attachment and if forgiveness is not sought for them, they become sad.

The deceased of the graveyard appeared in a dream

There was a man whose routine was to come to a graveyard and sit down, and whenever any funeral came he would join the funeral prayer, and in the evening he would stand at the gate of the graveyard and make the following Du'a, 'O people of the graves! May Allah ﷻ grant you comfort, have mercy on your miserable state, forgive your sins and accept your good deeds!'

That very person has narrated, 'One evening I came home without completing my normal routine of the graveyard, that is I returned without making Du'a for them. That night I saw a large number of people in my dream. I asked them, 'Who are you and why have you come?' They said, 'We are the people of the graveyard. You had made it your routine that you would present a gift to us before returning home every day.' I then said, 'What was that gift?' They replied, 'It was a gift of your Du'as.' I then said, 'It is all right'. From now on I will resume sending this gift.' After that incident, I never stopped this routine of mine.' (*Sharh-us-Sudūr, pp. 226*)

Deceased father speaks in a dream

Sayyiduna Imām Sufyān Bin 'Uyaynah رَحِمَهُ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has said, 'When my father passed away, I wept bitterly. I would visit his grave every day. Then with the passage of time my visits became occasional. Then, one day my deceased father appeared in my dream and said, 'O my son! Why is there a delay?' I asked, 'Do you know of my visits?' He replied, 'Indeed? I know every visit of yours. I would become happy upon seeing you, and my deceased neighbours would

also become pleased by your Du'a.' So, after that dream, I began to visit the grave of my deceased father regularly.' (*Sharh-us-Sudūr*, pp. 227)

Pleas of souls for donating rewards

Dear Islamic brothers! From this we have learnt that the deceased recognize those who visit their graves, and they receive benefit from the Du'as of the living. When the gifts of Isāl-e-Sawāb stop, they are aware of this and Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ gives them permission to go to their homes and request for Isāl-e-Sawāb.

On page 650 of volume 9 of *Fatawa Razawiyyah*, A'la Hadrat, Imām-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, reviver of the religion, Imām Ahmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ has stated that the souls of the believers visit their homes every Thursday night, on the Day of 'Eid, on the day of 'Āshūrā, and on Shab-e-Bara'at, and stand outside their homes. The souls call out in a loud sorrowful voice, 'O people of my home! O my children! O my relatives! Please do us a favour and give charity with the intention of Isāl-e-Sawāb.' (*Fatawa Razawiyyah*, vol. 9, pp. 650)

The Blessed Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'The condition of the deceased is like that of a drowning person, he anxiously waits for the supplication (Du'a) of his father, mother, brother or friend to reach him, and when the supplication of anyone reaches him then, according to him, it is better than the world and everything in it. Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ bestows the reward gifted to the deceased by their relatives in the form of mountains. The gift of the living is to pray for the forgiveness of the deceased.' (*Shu'ab-ul-Iman*, vol. 6, p. 203, *Hadees*, 7905)

بے کون کہ گریہ کرے یا فائزہ کو آئے بے کس کے اُٹھائے تری رحمت کے بہرے پہول

Introduction of Majlis Langar-e-Rasaail

Dear Islamic brothers! For seeking forgiveness and salvation for your deceased ones, along with the reward of charity and virtuous deeds, distribute booklets. Langar-e-Rasaail refers to the distribution of books, booklets, VCDs free of cost with the intention of earning rewards & serving Muslims. Langar-e-Rasaail is one of the departments of more or less 97 departments of Dawat-e-Islami; which, in fact, is a (sub) department of Maktaba-tul-Madinah, it carries out

the personally duty of distributing the books, booklets, VCDs and others publications of Maktaba-tul-Madinah and books authored by Shaykh-e-Tareeqat, Ameer-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat **وَامْتَرِكْهُمْ الْعَالِيَه** to houses, offices, shops, schools, colleges, universities, Jami'at and Madaaris all year round, as much as it can afford to, with aid of generous Islamic brothers.

The responsible Islamic brothers of the Majlis of Langar-e-Rasaail especially instil this fact in people related to Dawat-e-Islami and almost every lover of the Beloved Rasool that by acting upon this blessed Hadees **تَهَادَوْا تَحَابُّوْا** (i.e., exchange gifts, and your love will increase for one another), distribute at least 12 books or booklets or 1 VCD from your personal money each month to your relatives, shops in your area, students and teachers etc., furthermore, on the occasions of Teejah (3 days), Chaaleeswan (40 days), Daswaan (10 days) and Anniversaries etc., distribute booklets with the names of your deceased printed in them, even enclose a booklet with your wedding cards. If it touched anyone's heart and he became Salah abiding and habitual of acting upon the Sunnah, **إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ** you will also become successful in both worlds. Remember! The distribution of booklets from Madani donations is not allowed.

May Allah **عَزَّوَجَلَّ** privilege us to continue performing prayers and seeking forgiveness and donating rewards to our deceased ones along with seeking forgiveness and salvation for ourselves.

أَمِينَ بِجَاهِ النَّبِيِّ الْأَمِينِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Summary of Bayan (speech)

Dear Islamic brothers! In today's Bayan, we were privileged to listen to the excellence and virtues of the blessed month of Sha'ban. This is a favourite month of the Beloved Rasool **صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** and it is a month of reciting Salat & Salam. To show true respect for this blessed month, we should perform continuous prayers, recite the Blessed Quran, observe optional fasts

abundantly, visit the graves to develop the contemplation of the Hereafter, make Du'a of seeking forgiveness for the deceased Muslims as well as motivate and persuade people of our localities to not set off fireworks and other such evil acts, but rather carry out virtuous deeds; if possible, host an Ijtima' of Zikr-o-Na'at in houses in this month and make the intention to attend the Sunnah-inspiring congregation of Shab-e-Bara'at, which are held under Dawat-e-Islami and associate yourselves with the Madani environment of Dawat-e-Islami in order to protect yourselves from sins, and to attain the passion of earning virtues and calling towards righteousness.

Take part in 12 Madani activities

Dear Islamic brothers! Participate in the 12 Zayli Madani activities of Dawat-e-Islami with full commitment for propagating the call towards righteousness. One of these Madani activities is called 'Chowk Dars' (Dars at a busy square). Remember! In Chowk Dars, 'Ilm-e-Deen (Islamic teachings) are conveyed and similarly, Chowk Dars is a brilliant source of 'أَمْرٌ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهْيٌ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ' and it brings countless excellences.

The Noble Prophet ﷺ has stated, 'Did Allah ﷻ not make such things which you give in charity (Sadaqah)?' He then added, 'Undoubtedly, saying 'سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ' is Sadaqah, saying 'اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ' is Sadaqah, saying 'الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ' is Sadaqah and 'أَمْرٌ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ' i.e., calling towards righteousness is a Sadaqah and 'نَهْيٌ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ' i.e., forbidding from evils is Sadaqah.'

(Sahih Muslim, Kitab-uz-Zakah, pp. 503, Raqm 1006)

Listen to another blessed Hadees, the Noble Prophet ﷺ has stated, 'The one who imparts any Islamic teaching which establishes a Sunnah or it becomes a cause of preventing disbelief, that person is a Jannati [dweller of Heaven].'
(Hilya-tul-Awliya, Hadees 14466)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ﷻ! In Chowk Dars as well, people are called towards righteousness and are forbidden from evils; if we also participate in the Chowk Dars, we would

also attain the excellence of the blessed Hadees based on calling towards righteousness, let's make an intention of delivering & listening to Chowk Dars.

The Revered and Renowned Prophet ﷺ was once sitting on the blessed Mimbar (a pulpit-like raised structure) when a companion said, 'Yā Rasūlallāh! ﷺ! Who is the best person among all people?' He ﷺ said, 'The best among all people is the one who recites the Holy Quran in abundance, adopts more piety, calls [people] towards righteousness and prevents [them] from evils the most and treats his relatives with kindness the most.' (*Musnad Imām Ahmad, vol. 10, pp. 402, Hadees 27504*) A blessing of Madani Qafilah is presented for your encouragement and persuasion.

Excessive indulgence pampered me

An Islamic brother of Shahdara (Markaz-ul-Auliya, Lahore) gave the following account: I was the only son of my parents; their excessive love had spoilt me and made me a disobedient son. I used to stay up late and waste my time and sleep till late in the day.

If my parents tried to advise me, I'd shout at them and tell them off. Sometimes they'd even cry. My mother's eyes would fill with tears making Du'ā for my reform. May millions of salutations be to the moment when I was blessed with when meeting an Islamic brother of Dawat-e-Islami. Making individual efforts, he convinced me, a sinner and extremely wicked person, to travel in a Madani Qafilah. I took part in a three day Madani Qafilah with the lovers of the Beloved Rasool ﷺ. The blessed company of the lovers of the Beloved Rasool ﷺ transformed me so profoundly in those three days that my hard heart which did not get any effect even by my mother's tears became soft.

A Madani revolution took place in my heart and I began offering Salah regularly during the Madani Qafilah. When I returned, I made Salam, kissed my father's hand and my mother's feet. Everyone was shocked to see such a great positive change in my behaviour!

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ! The company of the lovers of the Beloved Rasool in the Madani Qafilah completely changed me and, at the time of making this statement, this

sinner who did not use to offer Salah, has now got the responsibility of waking Muslims up for Salat-ul-Fajr by doing Sadā-e-Madinah. (In the Madani environment of Dawat-e-Islami the term 'Sadā-e-Madinah' refers to the act of waking Muslims up for Salat-ul-Fajr).

گر چہ اعمالِ بد، اور افعالِ بد
نے بے رُسا کیا، قافلے میں چلو
کر سفر آؤ گے، تم سُدھر جاؤ گے
مانگو چل کر دُعا، قافلے میں چلو

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ



Dear Islamic brothers! In conclusion, I take this opportunity to mention the excellence of a Sunnah as well as some Sunan and manners. The Prophet of Rahmah, the Intercessor of the Ummah صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has said, 'He who loves my Sunnah, loves me, and he who loves me will be with me in Paradise.'
(Ibn 'Asakir, vol. 9, pp. 343)

سینہ تری سُنّت کا مدینہ بنے آقا
جَنّت میں پڑوسی مجھے تم اپنا بنانا

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

11 Madani pearls regarding visiting the graveyard

1. The Prophet of creation, the Peace of our heart and mind, the Most Generous and Kind صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, 'I had prohibited you from visiting the graves. But now, do visit the graves, because it causes dislike for the worldliness and reminds one of the afterlife.'
(Sunan Ibn Majah, pp. 252, vol. 2, Hadees 1571)
2. If one intends to visit a Muslim's grave or a Mazaar (mausoleum) of some beloved of Allah, it is Mustahab for him to firstly offer two Rak'āt Nafil

Salah (not in Makruh timings) at his home reciting Āyat-ul-Kursī once and Sūrah Al-Ikhlās thrice after Sūrah Al-Fātihah in each Rak'at and to donate its Sawāb to the Sahib-e-Qabr (i.e. the one who is buried there); Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ will produce Nūr (light) in the grave of that deceased person and will abundantly reward this person (who donated the Šawāb).

(Fatawa 'Ālamgīrī, pp. 350, vol. 5)

3. Don't engage in useless conversations when going to visit a Mazaar (mausoleum) or a grave. (Fatawa 'Ālamgīrī, pp. 350, vol. 5)
4. Enter the graveyard from the usual pathway where there had never been graves of Muslims before. Never use the new pathways, because new path ways are usually paved on the graves. It is quoted in *Rad-dul-Muhtār*: Walking on new pathways (that has been built by levelling the graves) is Haraam. (Rad-dul-Muhtār, pp. 612, vol. 1) Even if one suspects that the new pathway may have been built over graves, it is not permissible and sinful to walk on that. (Dur-re-Mukhtār, pp. 183, vol. 3)
5. It has been observed at some Mazaars of the beloveds of Allah that expansion takes place by demolishing the graves of Muslims just to facilitate visitors. Walking, standing, lying down, seating arrangements for the recitation (of the Holy Quran) and invocations etc. upon such areas are Haraam. Rather, recite Fātihah from a distance.
6. In Mazaar, stand in front of the face of the beloved of Allah. Approach it from the foot side in order to remain in front of his vision; never approach from the head side as he (the buried one) would have to turn his head to look at you. (Fatawa Razawīyyah, pp. 532, vol. 9)
7. In the graveyard, stand with the back towards the Holy Qiblah whilst facing the face of the buried one, and then recite:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَا أَهْلَ الْقُبُورِ
يَغْفِرُ اللَّهُ لَنَا وَلَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ لَنَا سَلَفٌ وَنَحْنُ بِالْآثَرِ

Translation: Salutation be upon you all, O inhabitants of the graves, may Allah ﷺ forgive us and you. You came (here) before us and we are about to follow after you. (*Fatawa 'Ālamgīrī*, pp. 350, vol. 5)

8. One who reads the following when entering a graveyard:

اَللّٰهُمَّ رَبَّ اَلْاَجْسَادِ الْبَالِيَةِ وَالْعِظَامِ النَّخِرَةِ الَّتِي خَرَجَتْ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا
وَهِيَ بِكَ مُؤْمَنَةٌ اَدْخِلْ عَلَيْهَا رَوْحًا مِّنْ عِنْدِكَ وَسَلَامًا مِّنِّيْ

Translation: O Allah ﷺ O the Rab ﷺ of decomposed bodies and ruined bones! Send Your blessings and my salutation to those who departed from the world with faith (in You).

Then, all the Muslims who have passed away till then since the time of Sayyiduna Ādam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام will pray for his forgiveness.

(*Musannaf Ibn Abī Shaybah*, pp. 15, vol. 10)

9. The Most Merciful Prophet ﷺ said, 'If a person enters a graveyard, then recites Sūrah Al-Fātihah, Sūrah Al-Ikhlās and Sūrah At-Takāsūr and makes this Du'a: 'O Allah ﷺ! Send the Šawāb of what I have recited from the Holy Quran to the Muslim men and women of this graveyard; all those believers (who are buried there) will become intercessors for him on the Day of Judgement.' (*Sharh-us-Šudūr*, p. 311)

It is quoted in a blessed Hadees: The person who recites Sūrah Al-Ikhlās 11 times and donates its Sawāb to the deceased Muslims, he will be awarded Šawāb equal to the number of how many deceased there are. (*Dur-re-Mukhtār*, pp. 183, vol. 3)

10. Agarbattī (incense sticks) should not be lit upon the graves as it is against respect and causes discomfort to the dead; however if it is for spreading fragrance for the comfort of visitors, it should be lit beside the grave, as perfuming is praiseworthy. (*Derived from Fatawa Razawīyyah*, pp. 525, 582, vol. 9)

Elsewhere, A'la Ḥaḍrat Imām Ahmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ has stated: It is quoted in *Sahih Muslim* from Sayyiduna 'Amr bin 'Ās رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ that he advised his son at the time of death, 'When I die, do not let any mournful woman or any fire accompany my funeral.'

(*Sahih Muslim, pp. 75, Hadees 192*)

11. Do not place lamps or candles etc., upon the grave because fire upon a grave is disrespectful to the dead; however if it is required for the purpose of providing light to, then candles or lamps etc. may be placed besides the grave.

To learn various Sunan, obtain the following books, *Bahar-e-Shari'at* volume 16 comprising of 312 pages and *Sunnatayn aur Ādaab*, comprising of 120 pages, both published by Maktaba-tul-Madinah, the publishing department of Dawat-e-Islami. One of the best ways to learn Sunan is to travel in the Madani Qafilahs of Dawat-e-Islami with the lovers of the Beloved Prophet.

مجھ کو جذبہ دے سفر کرتا رہوں پروردگار سُنّتوں کی تربیت کے قافلے میں بار بار

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

The Salawaat-'Alan-Nabi that are recited in the Sunnah-Inspiring weekly Ijtima' (congregation) of Dawat-e-Islami:

1. The Salat-'Alan-Nabi for the night preceding Friday

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ النَّبِيِّ الْاُمِّيِّ الْحَبِيبِ
الْعَالِي الْقَدْرِ الْعَظِيْمِ الْجَاهِ وَعَلَى اٰلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ

The saints of Islam have quoted that whoever recites this Salat-'Alan-Nabi at least once on the night preceding Friday [the night between Thursday and Friday] on a regular basis will be blessed with the vision of the Beloved and Blessed Prophet ﷺ at the time of death, as well as at the time of his burial into the grave, to the extent that he will see the Noble Prophet ﷺ lowering him into the grave with his own merciful hands. (Afzal-us-Salawat 'ala Sayyid-is-Sadat, pp. 151)

2. All sins forgiven

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَ مَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَسَلِّمْ

It is narrated by Sayyiduna Anas رضى الله تعالى عنه that the Beloved and Blessed Prophet ﷺ has stated, 'Whoever recites this Salat upon me whilst standing, then prior to his sitting back; and if he recites it whilst sitting, then before he stands back, his sins will be forgiven.' (ibid, pp. 65)

3. 70 Portals of mercy

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Whoever recites this Salat-'Alan-Nabi, 70 portals of mercy are opened for him. (Al-Qaul-ul-Badi', pp. 277)

4. Good deeds for 1000 days

جَزَى اللَّهُ عَنَّا مُحَمَّدًا مَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ

It is narrated by Sayyiduna Ibn 'Abbās رضى الله تعالى عنه that the Noble and Blessed Prophet ﷺ has stated, 'For the reciter of above supplication, seventy angels write good deeds (in his account) for 1000 days.'

(Majma'-uz-Zawaid, pp. 254, vol. 10, Hadees 17305)

5. The reward of 600,000 Salawat-‘Alan-Nabi

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ عَدَدَ
مَا فِي عِلْمِ اللَّهِ صَلَاةً دَائِمَةً بَدَوا مِ مُلْكِ اللَّهِ

Shaykh Ahmad Sawi عَلَيْهِ رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ الْهَادِي reports from some saints of Islam that the one reciting this Salat-‘Alan-Nabi once receives the reward of reciting Salat-‘Alan-Nabi 600,000 times. (*Afzal-us-Salawat ‘ala Sayyid-is-Sadat*, pp. 149)

6. Nearness to the Distinguished Prophet ﷺ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا تُحِبُّ وَتَرْضَى لَهُ

One day somebody came [to the blessed court of the Beloved and Blessed Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ], and the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ made him sit in between himself and Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddiq رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ. The respected companions رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُمْ were surprised as to who that honoured person was. When he had left, the Holy Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, ‘When he recites Salat upon me, he does so in these words.’

(*Al-Qaul-ul-Badi’*, pp. 125)

7. Durood-e-Shafa’at

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَانْزِلْهُ الْمَفْعَدَ الْمُقَرَّبَ عِنْدَكَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

The Greatest and Holiest Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ has stated: The one who recites this Salat upon me, my intercession will become obligatory for him.

(*Attarhib Wattarhib*, vol. 2, pp. 329, Hadees 31)